



**State of Louisiana**  
Department of Environmental Quality

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Governor

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## DEQ ISSUES NOTICE OF POTENTIAL PENALTY TO UNION PACIFIC RAILROAD

**T**he Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality has issued a Notice of Potential Penalty (NOPP) to the Union Pacific Railroad Company for alleged violations of the Environmental Quality Act and the state's Water Quality Regulations. A Union Pacific train derailed on May 27 near Eunice, Louisiana, causing the release of chemicals from some of the 33 rail cars involved. Among the chemicals released during the incident were Acrylic Acid, Toluene 2,4 Diisocyanate, Dichloropropane, Methylene Chloride, Molten Phenol, n-Pentane, neo-Hexane, Disodium Iminodiacetate, Dicyclopentadiene, Glycol, and Alumina. The derailment caused contamination of a local water body, and additional contaminated water was generated through the ensuing fire-fighting efforts. The water body, a tributary to Bayou Des Cannes, had been dammed to prevent the contaminated water from escaping.

Union Pacific had been working with DEQ since June to develop a treatment and disposal plan for addressing the heavily contaminated water. However, prior to that plan being finalized, the contaminated water was released from the dammed tributary. The NOPP cites the company for the unauthorized discharge of approximately 3 million gallons of untreated water into Bayou Des Cannes. The NOPP further states that Union Pacific did not make any attempts to cease the unauthorized discharge, allowing it to continue unabated through July 7.

Union Pacific may respond in writing to the NOPP or request a meeting within 10 days, after which DEQ may levy a penalty against the company.

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